

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
FOURTH QUARTER REPORT – FY 2005
For the Period of July 1 – September 30

Submitted by: Roger Hewitt, Division Director, Fisheries Resources Division

Title of accomplishment or milestone: Publication of the annual summary of the U.S. Pacific albacore troll fisheries.

Current status: The final draft has been completed and is currently being published.

Background information: Prior to 1974 the collection of fisheries data from the Pacific albacore troll and bait boat fisheries was done by the state fishery agencies of California, Oregon and Washington. In 1974 the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries developed a coast-wide albacore logbook program to nationalize the collection of data from the

Table 1. Total catches of North Pacific albacore by different countries from the 2004 annual summary.

YEAR	CANADA ²		JAPAN ³					KOREA ⁴			MEXICO ⁵	
	TROLL	PURSE SEINE	GILL NET	LONG LINE	POLE & LINE	PURSE SEINE	TROLL	UNSP. GEAR	GILL NET	LONG LINE	UNSP. GEAR	
1952	71			26687	41787	154		237				
1953	5			27777	32921	38		132				
1954				20958	28069	23		38				
1955				16277	24236	8		136				
1956	17			14341	42810			57				
1957	8			21053	49500	83		151				
1958	74			18432	22175	8		124				
1959	212			15802	14252			67				
1960	5	136		17369	25156			76				
1961	4			17437	18639	7		268				0
1962	1			15764	8729	53		191				0
1963	5			13464	26420	59		218				0
1964	3			15458	23858	128		319				0
1965	15			13701	41491	11		121				0
1966	44			25050	22830	111		585				0
1967	161			28869	30481	89		520				
1968	1028			23961	16597	267		1109				
1969	1365			18006	31912	521		935				0
1970	390			16283	24263	317		456				0
1971	1746			11524	52957	902		308				0
1972	3921		1	13043	60569	277		623				100
1973	1400		39	16795	68767	1353		495				0
1974	1331		224	13409	73564	161		879				1
1975	111		166	10318	52152	159		228		2,463		1
1976	278		1070	15825	85336	1109		272		859		36
1977	53		688	15696	31934	669		355		792		0
1978	23		4029	13023	59877	1115		2078		228		1
1979	521		2856	14215	44662	125		1126		0	259	1
1980	212		2986	14689	46742	329		1179		6	597	31
1981	200		10348	17922	27426	252		663		16	459	8
1982	104		12511	16767	29614	561		440		113	387	7
1983	225		6852	15097	21098	350		118		233	454	33
1984	50		8988	15060	26013	3380		511		516	136	113
1985	56		11204	14351	20714	1533		305		576	291	49
1986	30		7813	12928	16096	1542		626		726	241	3
1987	104		6698	14702	19082	1205		155		817	549	7
1988	155		9074	14731	6216	1208		134		1016	409	15
1989	140		7437	13104	8629	2521		393		1023	150	2
1990	302		6064	15789	8532	1995		249		1016	6	2
1991	139		3401	17046	7103	2652		392		852	3	2
1992	363		2721	19049	13888	4104		1527		271	(15)	10
1993	494		287	29966	12797	2889		867			(32)	11
1994	1998		263	29612	26389	2026		799			(45)	6
1995	1720		282	29080	20981	1177	856	81			440	5
1996	3591		116	32492	20272	581	815	117			333	21
1997	2433		359	38988	32238	1068	1585	123			319	53
1998	4188		206	35813	22926	1554	1190	88			(288)	8
1999	2641		289	33365	50369	6872	891	127			107	23
2000	4465		67	30032	21549	2408	645	171			414	428
2001	4985		117	28809	29430	974	416	96			82	18
2002	5,022		(332)	(23,917)	(48,454)	(4,303)	(787)	(135)			(146)	(0)
2003	6,735	(0)	(332)	(23,917)	(35,222)	(683)	(787)	(135)		(0)	(146)	(0)
2004	(7,796)	(0)	(332)	(23,917)	(35,222)	(683)	(787)	(135)		(0)	(146)	(0)

albacore fisheries off the U.S. west coast. Since 1981 an annual summary of the fishery has been published by the SWFSC as an administrative report. The summary contains information on the U.S. catch and effort data from logbooks, size composition of the U.S. catch, and total catch (landings) information on the U.S. and foreign fisheries that target albacore in the Pacific (Table 1). The statistics published in this summary are used by scientists from the SWFSC and other international agencies in the assessment of the North and South Pacific albacore stocks.

Purpose of activity: The SWFSC has the responsibility for collection of fisheries data from the U.S. Pacific albacore fisheries. The information collected from these fisheries is used to monitor the stocks of albacore in the Pacific in support of NOAA Fisheries' commitment to "Maintain healthy stocks important to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries."

Description of accomplishment and significant results: The publication has grown significantly since its inception and continues to utilize advancing technologies. GIS mapping software has replaced hand-drawn SST contours in monthly distribution plots (Fig. 1).

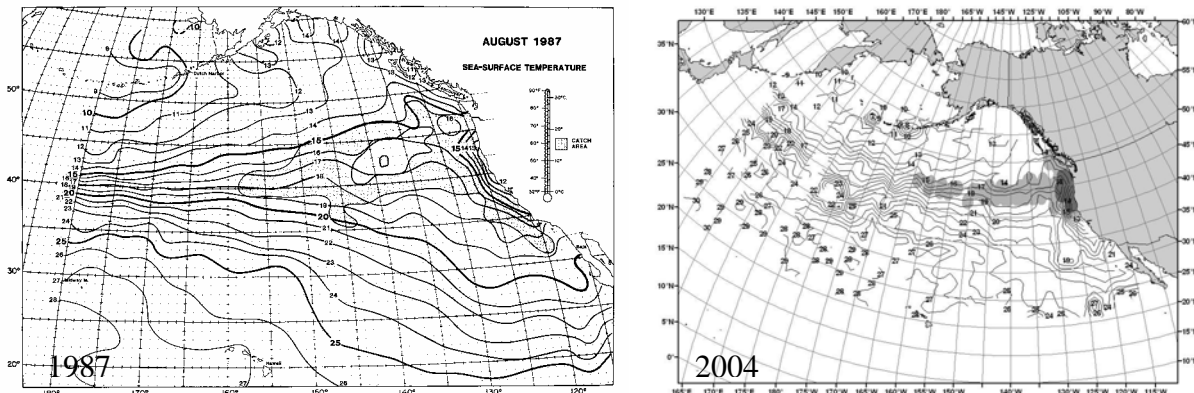


Figure 1. Examples of the increasing resolution of monthly distribution plots of catch and SST contours (1987 and 2004).

Feedback from fishermen has been positive and each year new requests are received for copies of the summary. Electronic copies are now posted on the FRD web site for downloading by the public.

Significance of accomplishment: The availability of continuous, high quality fisheries data from the U.S. troll and bait boat fisheries is crucial to the accurate assessment of the two Pacific albacore stocks (North and South Pacific). Providing information on the status of the fisheries to those dependent on it (such as fishermen, buyers, suppliers, etc.) creates a vital relationship between those managing the fishery and those involved in it.

Problems: None.

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